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Mandated areas

Overview of developments

Note by the Secretariat**

Executive summary

The present note is an overview of developments under the mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its second session, as reflected in the contributions of the United Nations system and the activities of the members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat.

* E/C.19/2004/1.
** The present document was submitted late to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Overview of the contributions of the United Nations system	4
	A. Contributions by individual agencies	4
	B. Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues	4
	C. Free prior and informed consent	5
III.	Activities of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	5
IV.	Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	8
V.	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by the secretariat	8
	A. The Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society — an event held in parallel with the World Summit on the Information Society	8
	B. Workshop on data collection and disaggregation	9
	C. Logo competition and indigenous youth information strategy	10
	D. Invitations to the regional commissions and to the secretariat of the World Trade Organization	11
	E. High-level panel on the participation of civil society	11
	F. Methods of work of the Permanent Forum with the United Nations system	11
VI.	Other activities by the secretariat in support of the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	12
	A. High Level Committee on Programmes and United Nations Development Group	12
	B. Indigenous Fellowship Programme	12
	C. Initial acceptance of interns	13
	D. Contribution to reports, statements and promotional activities	13
	E. Evaluation of the second session of the Permanent Forum	13

I. Introduction

1. Since the end of the second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a variety of activities of relevance to indigenous peoples have been carried out by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, indigenous people's organizations, other non-governmental organizations, Members of the Permanent Forum, and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. In October 2003, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs invited written contributions to the third session of the Permanent Forum. The United Nations system in particular was encouraged to structure contributions along the following lines: (a) response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the particular agency/fund/programme/department under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate; (b) response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items of the Permanent Forum's mandate; (c) other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the agency/fund/programme/department; (d) information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the third session, "Indigenous women"; (e) name and contact information of the focal point on indigenous issues in the agency/fund/programme/department; (f) list of conferences and other meetings under the agency regarding indigenous issues in 2004-2005.

2. As of 5 March 2004, written submissions had been received from the Asian Development Bank, the Department of Public Information, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as well as the Governments of Canada, Colombia, Finland, New Zealand, Norway and the Russian Federation and by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, namely the American Psychology Association, the Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, the Franciscans, the Grand Council of the Crees and the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples. These written submissions appear in documents E/C.19/2004/4 and Add.1-5, E/C.19/2004/5 and Add.1-12, E/C.19/2004/6 and Add.1-3, E/C.19/2004/8 and E/C.19/2004/9.

3. The present note is an overview of the contributions of the United Nations system and of the main activities of members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat in promoting the implementation of the Forum's mandate. Conclusions and recommendations throughout the text appear in bold.

II. Overview of the contributions of the United Nations system

A. Contributions by individual agencies

4. Most of the written submissions by the United Nations system followed the format suggested by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and mentioned in paragraph 1 above, **thus making clearer what has been the response to the recommendations of the Forum. A review of the responses demonstrates a qualitative improvement in reporting and a more substantive engagement of the United Nations system with the Permanent Forum, although much remains to be done.**

5. From the end of the second session to-date, invitations to the Permanent Forum to participate in relevant meetings of the United Nations system were extended by WIPO (three invitations), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (three invitations), FAO and IFAD, UNESCO (two invitations), and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (three invitations). **Such invitations are an indication of the beginning of fruitful results following the Forum's recommendation, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2003/302 of 25 July 2003, that representation of the Forum at various meetings of relevance to its mandate throughout the year is one of the methods of work of the Forum and that all subsidiary bodies of the Council should welcome the Forum and its members by issuing open invitations to Forum members to attend all relevant meetings, conferences and seminars.**

6. In response to the Forum's recommendation in paragraph 121 of the report on its second session[1] to adopt policies on indigenous peoples and to designate focal points for addressing indigenous issues, the Inter-American Development Bank is considering developing an indigenous specific policy and UNICEF is developing a regional document for Latin America. The Asian Development Bank has an indigenous policy that was developed in 1998. Eleven entities of the United Nations system submitted the name of their focal point on indigenous issues (ADB, the Department of Public Information, ECLAC, FAO, IFAD, OHCHR, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNITAR and WIPO).

7. Most responses also integrated elements of the special theme of the third session, indigenous women, and a note by the secretariat of the Forum on the special theme appears as document E/C.19/2004/7. Information provided by the agencies on upcoming meetings in the United Nations system of relevance to the Permanent Forum is posted on the Forum's web site at www.un.org/esa/socdev/pfii.

B. Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues

8. The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues met at Geneva in September 2003, convened by WIPO, and a report on that meeting appears in the written submission of WIPO to the third session of the Forum (E/C.19/2004/5/Add.2). The 2004 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group will be convened by UNDP.

C. Free prior and informed consent

9. In response to the importance placed by the Permanent Forum on the principle of free prior and informed consent, as reflected in various paragraphs of the report on the second session, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues discussed the matter, and UNDP offered to coordinate the preparation of a paper collecting the views and experiences of the United Nations system. **Given the significant response of the United Nations system reflected in the present report, including the earmarking by UNDP of part of its contribution to the Trust Fund for an activity in this area, it is expected that further action will be taken after the advice of the Permanent Forum at its third session.**

III. Activities of the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

10. The following information is an overview of activities by members since the last session of the Permanent Forum. It is not an exhaustive account of activities undertaken.

11. In June 2003, Mr. Parshuram Tamang participated at the WIPO Intergovernmental Seminar on Intellectual Property Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran.

12. In July 2003, the Chairperson, Mr. Ole Henrik Magga attended the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva within the context of the consideration of the report on the second session of the Permanent Forum and the meeting of the Council with chairpersons of its functional commissions. The Economic and Social Council took note of the report on the second session by consensus, and the draft decisions proposed by the Forum were adopted, two with revisions (see Economic and Social Council decisions 2003/301, and 2003/306).

13. In view of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on rural development, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum coordinated inputs from members of the Permanent Forum and forwarded them to the Bureau of the Council, resulting in references to indigenous peoples included in the final paper adopted by the Council.

14. In July, Mr. Magga also addressed the Working Group on Indigenous Populations regarding the human rights recommendations of the second session and future collaboration between the Permanent Forum and the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur. Other members present at the Working Group were Mr. Wilton Littlechild and Mr. Ayitegan Kouevi. Mr. Kouevi also attended the preliminary discussions of the World Bank concerning their recent initiative, the Grants Facility for Indigenous Peoples. While in Geneva, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum met with the Documentation Centre of Indigenous Peoples, the World Council of Churches and delegations of indigenous organizations, and briefed the Indigenous Caucus of the Working Group on Permanent Forum developments.

15. During the summer of 2003, the Chairperson gave many other presentations at various conferences, which include the following: a conference of European churches in Trondheim, Norway; a conference on the day of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, in Stockholm; a UNESCO conference on cultural

heritage in Roros, Norway; the opening of the Centre for Information on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, in Guovdageaidnu, Norway; and the Annual Assembly of the Saami Youth Organization "Davvi Nuorra" in Tana, Norway.

16. In June and July 2003, Ms. Njuma Ekundanayo undertook contacts in North America regarding the situation of indigenous peoples in Africa. From July to December 2003, Ms. Ekundanayo carried out various activities at the national level in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with government departments, non-governmental organizations, research professionals, the media, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and UNDP.

17. Also in September, the Chairperson Mr. Magga, Mr. Littlechild, Ms. Trask, Mr. Lord and Mr. Boitchenko attended the Working Group on the Draft Declaration. Mr. Magga also participated in the Department of Public Information/NGO conference and high-level meetings to discuss the theme of the third session, to be held in New York. Mr. Kouevi participated in the Technical Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Development Standards, hosted by the International Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests. Mr. Jacanamijoy and Mr. Tamang participated at the Twelfth World Forestry Congress and the Indigenous Peoples' Forest Forum, held in Quebec, Canada, from 21 to 28 September.

18. On 19 September 2003, Mr. Littlechild and Ms. Nicolaisen participated in the Committee on the Rights of the Child special discussion day on "The Rights of Indigenous Children". Both members as well as Mr. Magga also used that opportunity for a high-level meeting with WIPO to discuss further collaboration. Ms. Trask attended the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancun, Mexico. Mr. Kouevi participated in the preparatory committee for the World Bank Grants Facility for Indigenous Peoples.

19. In October 2003, Mr. Tamang and Mr. Jacanamijoy travelled to Canada to participate in the Twelfth World Forestry Congress and the Indigenous People's Forest Forum. Later in October, Mr. Jacanamijoy, Ms. Lux de Coti and Mr. Turpo participated in the International Encounter of Resistance and Solidarity of Indigenous and Peasant Peoples, held in Caracas, Venezuela. Mr. Magga participated in the Council of Europe Conference to mark the fifth anniversary of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In addition, Mr. Magga addressed the members of the Joint Inspection Board at a meeting in Paris on the subject of achieving universal primary education. He also addressed UNESCO in Paris on the subject of indigenous peoples and the right to education. In mid-October, Mr. Kouevi participated in a seminar on ILO Convention 169, facilitated by Taymanut, in Rabat, Morocco.

20. Mr. Magga and Ms. Trask participated at the 2003 session of the International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples, held in Nuuk, Greenland, from 24 November to 8 December. Also in December, Mr. Magga, Mr. Tamang and Mr. Kouevi participated in consultations with FAO and IFAD in Rome. Mr. Littlechild participated in the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and the Administration of Justice, organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, held in Madrid from 12 to 14 November. He also participated in the Expert Seminar on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples, held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December.

21. At the invitation of UNESCO, Ms. Otilia Lux de Coti and Mr. Fortunato Turpo participated in the Conference on Media, pluralism and endangered cultures, held in the Dominican Republic from 3 to 6 November 2003. They provided indigenous perspectives and input on behalf of the Forum. Mr. Kouevi participated in the thirty-fourth session of the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, the Gambia, from 6 to 20 November. Mr. Turpo participated in the 2003 Meeting of Indigenous Committees of the High Andes, held in Cuzco, Peru, from 5 to 9 November and organized by Yachay Wasi.

22. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNDP have been keen to involve the Permanent Forum in their work and have invited members to participate in relevant meetings, including the Article 8(j) meeting in December in Montreal, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) in February 2004 in Malaysia and a regional UNDP meeting in Thailand. Mr. Turpo attended the Third Meeting on the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal in December 2003, and Mr. Tamang attended the related meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Malaysia in February 2004.

23. The Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society, which was facilitated by the Permanent Forum, was held from 8 to 11 December 2003. Mr. Matias Alonso prepared an independent expert paper on the World Summit on the Information Society, and the Bureau of the Permanent Forum facilitated the meeting.

24. In January 2004, Mr. Magga participated in an expert conference in preparation for the third session of the Permanent Forum hosted by the Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO). Also in January, Ms. Nicolaisen, Ms. Strogalschikova and Mr. Tamang participated in the Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples, held in New York.

25. In March 2004, Ms. Nicolaisen addressed the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, at its sixth session, held in Geneva. Also in March, Mr. Turpo agreed to participate in a symposium on indigenous peoples in international fora hosted by the University of Michigan (United States of America), and Mr. Kouevi participated in a Conference on Sustainable Development hosted by the National Assembly for Wales.

26. Throughout this period, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum provided support for the travel of members of the Permanent Forum to various meetings of significance for the Forum's mandate. Activity reports have been received by the secretariat from the Chairperson, Mr. Magga, Mrs. Njuma Ekundanayo, Mr. Jacanamijoy, Mr. Kouevi, Mr. Tamang, Mr. Turpo, Mr. Matias and Ms. Trask.

27. **The participation of the members of the Permanent Forum in such a broad ranging itinerary has advanced the Forum's mandated areas of economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights** by (a) providing expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council; (b) raising awareness and promoting the integration and coordination of activities relating to indigenous issues within the United Nations system; and (c) preparing and disseminating information on indigenous issues.

IV. Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

28. By its resolution 57/191 of 18 December 2002 on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Forum for the purpose of funding the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum. In response to that request, the Secretary-General established the Trust Fund in support of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in July 2003. As set forth in paragraph 1(b) of resolution 57/191, the voluntary contributions are to be used for funding the implementation of recommendations made by the Forum through the Economic and Social Council, in line with paragraph 2(a) of Council resolution 2000/22 of 28 July 2000, as well as funding activities under its mandate, as defined in paragraphs 2(b) and (c) of the same resolution.

29. A note inviting contributions to the Trust Fund was addressed on 25 July to all Governments by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

30. The Trust Fund became operational as of February 2004 with approximately $163,500 available for programming based on contributions received from Cyprus, Denmark and UNDP. In addition, a pledge from the World Bank has been received. The Fund has until now financed substantive support for members to attend the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a panel on indigenous women organized within the context of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and the Pacific Regional Consultation on the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The purpose of such attendance was to promote the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, raise awareness and promote the integration of indigenous issues in the United Nations system and to disseminate information about indigenous issues.

V. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by the secretariat

A. The Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society — an event held in parallel with the World Summit on the Information Society

31. The Permanent Forum had recommended that a world conference on indigenous peoples and the information society be organized on the occasion of the World Summit on the Information Society (10-12 December 2003), in close cooperation with interested Governments and NGOs.[2] In September 2003, after meetings in Geneva with donor States, including Canada (represented by the Aboriginal Canada Portal), Norway and Switzerland (represented by the secretariat of the World Summit on the Information Society), the Permanent Forum agreed to facilitate a Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society as an official event of the World Summit on the Information Society. The Permanent Forum, in consultation with donors, decided to host the Global Forum from 8 to 11 December in Geneva and to make use of the mandate of the Permanent Forum to

provide a structure and framework for the proceedings. The Permanent Forum further agreed to put in place its Bureau to facilitate the work of the meeting.

32. The Global Forum was organized through the cooperation of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, the Aboriginal Canada Portal and the secretariat of the World Summit on the Information Society with the assistance of the Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information, which agreed to provide a technical secretariat for the meeting.

33. The Global Forum on Indigenous Peoples and the Information Society was one of the largest official parallel events of the World Summit on the Information Society. The Global Forum was attended by representatives of 6 Member States, a total of 18 government departments, 9 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, 12 private sector participants and 90 indigenous and non-governmental organizations. A total of 286 persons attended the Global Forum. The Global Forum examined both potentials and obstacles to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the information society and, in doing so, produced a declaration and a programme of work aimed at furthering indigenous connectivity towards Tunis, in 2005.

34. Obstacles identified included lack of basic community infrastructure, limited access to modern technologies and the urgent need for gender- and age-sensitive capacity-building. Potentials identified included access to new marketplaces, increased indigenous networking (both regionally and internationally), new strategies to revitalize and pass on culture and languages, and the opportunity to fully participate in the new information and connectivity revolution facing humanity.

35. The Global Forum was regarded as one of the most successful parallel events of the World Summit on the Information Society. The report of the Global Forum is available under News Archives 2003, through the web site of the Forum at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/pfii/.

B. Workshop on data collection and disaggregation

36. Data collection has been identified as an urgent need by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at both its first and second sessions. In draft decision I at its second session, approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2003/300 of 25 July 2003, the Permanent Forum requested the organization of a workshop on the collection of data concerning indigenous peoples. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum convened the Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation in New York from 19 to 21 January 2004.

37. The workshop was attended by 36 experts from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, governments, indigenous organizations and academics. The workshop participants discussed a number of case studies, examined challenges and made recommendations concerning the collection and disaggregation of data concerning indigenous peoples.

38. **The recommendations, which appear in chapter V of the report of the Workshop (E/C.19/2004/2), promote better data collection and disaggregation concerning indigenous peoples for the consideration of the Permanent Forum**

at its third session. The papers presented at the Workshop have been posted on the web site of the Permanent Forum at www.un.org/esa/socdev/pfii.

C. Logo competition and indigenous youth information strategy

39. In order to promote further knowledge of the Forum and the role of the United Nations among indigenous children and youth, the Forum decided to organize an indigenous youth art competition for the design of a logo for the Forum and to present the results to the Forum at its fourth session, in 2005, with the highest participation of indigenous children, including illiterate children.[3]

40. In addition, the Forum recalled its mandate to "prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues", and invited indigenous peoples' organizations to consider creative ways of educating and disseminating information on the Forum to indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, including through art, workshops, radio programmes, posters, indigenous journalism and other culturally appropriate media. To that end, the Forum recommended that the programmes, funds and agencies of the United Nations system allocate appropriate resources for that purpose, assist in the production of such materials, include indigenous professionals in the production of such materials and report to the Forum at its third session on the extent to which they had been able to incorporate those actions into their programmes of work. The Forum also recommended that the United Nations Development Fund for Women allocate funding for capacity-building in connection with the Forum and for special outreach to indigenous women. The Forum furthermore recommended that UNICEF allocate funding for capacity-building in connection with the Forum and for special outreach to indigenous children and youth.[4]

41. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has launched the art competition for indigenous children to design a logo for the Permanent Forum, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information and UNICEF. Building on good work carried out by the Department's Outreach programme and the CyberSchoolBus programme, the secretariat has moved to formalize an information strategy for indigenous children and youth, which includes the following:

(a) "What's going on" commercial 30-minute documentary on indigenous youth (produced by the Outreach programme);

(b) A brochure on the Permanent Forum developed for children (Department of Public Information);

(c) Logo competition to accompany information brochure;

(d) CyberSchoolBus programme's online indigenous module (based on the documentary mentioned above;

(e) Outreach to schools through the web page UN DPI Schools Web page — CyberSchoolBus at http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/ and specifically at http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/indigenous.

D. Invitations to the regional commissions and to the secretariat of the World Trade Organization

42. In addition to invitations addressed to the United Nations system as a matter of routine, the Permanent Forum requested that invitations be extended to the Economic Commission for Latin America and other regional commissions to present a report of their activities concerning the situation of indigenous peoples and poverty.[5] Such invitations were extended, and a response was received from the Economic Commission for Latin America (E/C.19/2004/5/Add.10).

43. The Forum invited the secretariat of WTO to its third session for an exchange of views on important issues of common interest.[6] An invitation has accordingly been sent to WTO.

E. High-level panel on the participation of civil society

44. Pursuant to a recommendation of the Permanent Forum at its second session,[7] the secretariat of the Permanent Forum organized a meeting between the Members of the Bureau of the Permanent Forum and the High-level Panel of the Secretary-General, which was held at Geneva on 10 December 2003. The discussion centred around the good experiences in the interface of the United Nations with indigenous peoples as well as on challenges and recommendations for improvement.

F. Methods of work of the Permanent Forum with the United Nations system

45. Pursuant to recommendations made by the Permanent Forum at its second session,[8] the secretariat pursued multilateral and bilateral consultations with various parts of the United Nations system to promote implementation of the recommendations of the Forum. The secretariat provided substantive support for the rotating Chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group, which was WIPO for the September 2003 session, and convened the Intradepartmental Task Force for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

46. An analysis of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum by addressee of recommendation was prepared and circulated to the members of the Inter-Agency Support Group in order to facilitate follow-up. In addition, in consultation with agencies, the secretariat prepared an indicative timeframe (short-, medium-, or long-term) for implementation of recommendations, which has been circulated to the Inter-Agency Support Group and to the members of the Permanent Forum. **The secretariat considers this as the beginning of a database, which will be made available initially to the United Nations system and the Permanent Forum in order to facilitate follow-up to recommendations as well as cooperation and coordination of work on indigenous issues.**

47. Following the recommendation of the Forum for cooperation to provide technical assistance on indigenous issues to governments and indigenous communities, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum held preliminary consultations with IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, the United Nations University, UNITAR, International

Service for Human Rights and the International Training Center of Indigenous Peoples, among others, to find ways of pursuing such activities as joint efforts at the regional and global levels. The secretariat is also pursuing the integration of indigenous issues in various technical cooperation programmes of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

VI. Other activities by the secretariat in support of the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

A. High Level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group

48. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs brought indigenous issues to the attention of the High Level Committee on Programmes in July 2003 and the United Nations Development Group in November 2003. The hope is that, in 2004, the Development Group will start dealing with indigenous issues in terms of development programming.

B. Indigenous Fellowship Programme

49. The aim of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme is to give indigenous women and men the opportunity to gain knowledge across the broad mandate of the Forum, which includes economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. This programme has a particularly practical focus in that it aims to build the capacity of indigenous individuals and, through them, indigenous communities, in order to assist their organizations and communities in protecting and improving the lives of indigenous peoples.

50. On 12 December 2003, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs addressed a note to all Governments announcing the Fellowship Programme and inviting contributions to the Trust Fund for that purpose. It is expected that the programme will be launched in 2004. The fellows will be based at the secretariat of the Permanent Forum for six to nine months, depending on the availability of fellows. During that period, they will also experience short placements of up to two weeks in other relevant United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and departments located in North America. UNDP, UNICEF and the World Bank have already indicated a willingness to participate and host fellows. The fellows will also have the opportunity to establish contacts with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. After an introduction to relevant New York-based bodies, the fellows will be able to gain practical experience with the secretariat. As much as possible, the individual elements of the programme will be customized to suit the interests of the individual fellowship holders. In recognition of indigenous interest in recognized and accredited training, the secretariat is also exploring the possibility of curricula development and accreditation with the United Nations University or Institute of Advanced Studies and/or other institutes of advanced education and/or tertiary studies. The indigenous fellows will also be a valuable resource for the United Nations system, bringing to the workplace a rich cultural knowledge and "grass-roots" experience.

C. Initial acceptance of interns

51. The secretariat first began accepting interns on 8 September, and four interns have served to date. The United Nations internship programme (see ST/AI/2000/9 and ST/IC/2001/30) is for a two-month period but may be extended for an additional two months. The total duration may be exceptionally extended to a maximum of six months when there are special academic requirements or if the receiving department has special needs. The internship is normally on a full-time basis (with working hours being from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., five days per week). However, in the case of an intern with special academic requirements or if the receiving department has special needs, the internship can be done on a part-time basis, with the approval of the supervisor. The intern is unpaid. There are three internship sessions during the year: mid-January to mid-March; early June to early August; and early September to end-October. Applicants must be enrolled in a degree programme in a graduate school at the time of application and during the internship. Applicants pursuing their studies in countries where higher education is not divided into undergraduate and graduate programmes must have completed at least four years of full-time studies at a university or equivalent institution towards the completion of a degree. Applicants having an undergraduate degree are not eligible. Additional information on the internship programme is posted on the web site of the Office of Human Resources Management at www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/internsh/intern.htm.

52. **The United Nations internship programme greatly enriches the work of the Secretariat. Qualified candidates, including indigenous individuals, are encouraged to apply.**

D. Contribution to reports, statements and promotional activities

53. Throughout the year, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum has contributed to the review of various reports of the United Nations Secretariat and integrated indigenous issues into those documents, such as the report on genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2003/91) prepared in accordance with resolution 2001/39 of the Economic and Social Council. The secretariat has also organized or participated in promotional awareness-raising events, such as the 2003 commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at United Nations Headquarters as well as the Department of Public Information NGO briefing in February 2004, which was devoted to indigenous women. The secretariat has provided support for the preparation of statements, as necessary, by members of the Forum and United Nations high officials. By May 2004, the secretariat will have distributed three internal newsletters to the members of the Forum in English, French, Russian and Spanish — with informal translations provided by the secretariat — and is looking forward to launching a public newsletter on its web site before the third session of the Forum. The web site will soon be revamped. Lectures on indigenous issues have been given by staff members of the secretariat at academic and other venues.

E. Evaluation of the second session of the Permanent Forum

54. After the second session of the Permanent Forum, with a view to improving the preparation and conduct of sessions, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum distributed evaluation questionnaires to the members of the Forum, the Inter-Agency

Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the group of Member States known as the Friends of the Permanent Forum and a number of indigenous and other organizations. **Among the challenges identified and recommendations made in the evaluation, the following may be highlighted**:

(a) A closer informal dialogue among Forum members and **United Nations agencies** should be pursued for **the preparation of recommendations** of the Forum, and **the Inter-Agency Support Group should have more time for consultations with the Forum; bilateral relations of Forum members and agencies between sessions should be encouraged; the designation of portfolios for members of the Forum is a constructive and practical measure for enhancing PFII relations with the United Nations system; active input of agencies is needed for more refined results**;

(b) More **preparatory work, in-depth analysis and regional stock-taking** should be carried out by the indigenous representatives and others so as to better define plans of action with the agencies concerned;

(c) The **divergence of numbers between pre-registered and registered** indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations needs to be addressed, especially as it concerns visa issues;

(d) **Registration** should take place at the same location throughout the session;

(e) The format of the **Forum's briefing to Member States** should be maintained;

(f) Closer coordination between indigenous and non-governmental organizations and the respective governments at the country level could lead to **more active participation of Member States**;

(g) The time needs to be made available for **contacts between the Indigenous Caucus and the Permanent forum**;

(h) **Translation and interpretation services during the Forum's informal meetings** need to be enhanced;

(i) **Regular informal meetings of Forum members** may facilitate the work of the Forum;

(j) Guidelines for the **presence of children**, as appropriate, at meetings of the Permanent Forum should be clarified with the United Nations Security and Safety Service;

(k) The **side events should be coordinated and their number limited**.

55. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has taken the responses to the evaluation questionnaire into account in preparing for the Third Session of the PFII.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43).

[2] Ibid., para. 40.

[3] Ibid., para. 18.

[4] Ibid., para. 108.

[5] Ibid., para. 41.

[6] Ibid., para. 54.

[7] Ibid., para. 62.

[8] Ibid., paras. 116-121.